DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 387 039 HE 028 620

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TITLE Cold War on Campus: A Study of the Politics of Organizational Control.
REPORT NO ISBN-0-88738-178-2
PUB DATE 88
NOTE 358p.
AVAILABLE FROM Transaction Books, Rutgers--The State University, New Brunswick, NJ 08903 ($37.95).
PUB TYPE Books (010) -- Reports - Research/Technical (143)

EDRS PRICE Document Not Available from EDRS.
DESCRIPTORS Academic Freedom; Civil Liberties; College Administration; College Faculty; *Educational History; *Faculty College Relationship; Higher Education; *Political Influences; Political Power; Politics of Education; Sanctions; Teacher Administrator Relationship
IDENTIFIERS *Cold War; Communist Party; Organizational Behavior

ABSTRACT

This volume reports on a study of how political events and higher education leaders of the Cold War period influenced higher education campuses during that period. The study concludes that in many cases where faculty appointments were threatened by charges of political deviancy, it was higher administrators who failed to resist political pressures, compromised academic freedom and so brought the Cold War to campuses. Ten chapters cover: (1) the political and historical context; (2) the focus of this study--126 cases at 58 institutions of higher education between 1947 and 1956 where the appointments of faculty members were threatened because of the concern of academic authorities about alleged radical political beliefs or behavior; (3) cases that occurred because individuals testified before governmental bodies and so drew attention to themselves on their campuses; (4) institutional responses; (5) the charges; (6) the institutional committees that held proceedings; (7) rights and obligations between faculty and institutions; (8) the severe negative consequences for faculty who were the subject of inquiries; and (9) administrative actions. Chapter 10 reflects upon what this period reveals about the balance of power in American colleges and universities then and perhaps now. Extensive appendixes detail study methodology; provide examples of congressional testimony, meeting minutes, and formal charges; report a committee action in the case of junior faculty; and present an edited transcript of a hearing at a private university, three views of non-cooperation, and excerpts of a committee report. An index is provided. (Individual chapters contains references.) (JB)

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